

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the title, drawings, and claims 9, 23, and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 10-22, and 25 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9, 23, and 24 are pending and under consideration.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because the title is not descriptive. Applicants amend the title to obviate this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings because Figures 2, 8A, and 8B are not labeled "Prior Art." Applicants amend the drawings as suggested by the Office Action to obviate this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 12 and 14

The Office Action objects to claims 12 and 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 12 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 8 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants cancel claims 8 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-8, 16-23, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 16-23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter referred to as "APA") in view of U.S. Patent 5,734,638 issued to Matsui. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-8, 16-22, and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The APA and Matsui, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a groove is formed in the damping member, and one of the suspension wires is movably inserted into the groove," as recited in claim 23. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 23 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 13, 15, and 24

The Office Action rejects claims 9-11, 13, 15, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,790,510 issued to Itoh et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Itoh") in view of Matsui. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 15, and 24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Itoh and Matsui, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a plurality of grooves are formed in the second wire holder, each suspension wire corresponds to one of the grooves formed in the second wire holder, and an end of each suspension wire is movably inserted into one of the grooves of the second wire holder," as recited in claim 9. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 9 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Similarly, Itoh and Matsui, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least, "a plurality of grooves are formed in the another wire holder, each suspension wire corresponds to one of the grooves formed in the another wire holder, and an end of each suspension wire is movably inserted into one of the grooves of the another wire holder," as recited in claim 24. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 24 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 9, 23, and 24 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/683,675

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at item 3, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In order to overcome these objections, replacement figures are submitted herewith.

The attached drawings include changes to FIGS. 2 and 8A & 8B to designate same by the legend "PRIOR ART".

Approval of these changes and entry of the corrected Drawings is respectfully requested.